



Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

About Us

Our mission is to improve the lives of Seattle's immigrant and refugee families.

We work to strengthen immigrant and refugee communities by engaging them in decisions about the City of Seattle's future, and improving the City's programs and services to meet the needs of all constituents.

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NEW CITIZEN CAMPAIGN

The New Citizen Campaign makes citizenship assistance more accessible to larger numbers of eligible Seattle residents through partnerships with community centers, libraries, and neighborhood service centers. The New Citizen Program provides free naturalization assistance and support through 14 community-based organizations.

READY TO WORK

Ready to Work was designed for residents who face immense barriers to learning English and gaining employment. The program combines English as a Second Language (ESL) classes with computer literacy instruction and case management to help immigrants gain job readiness skills and take steps toward economic self-sufficiency.

IMMIGRANT FAMILY INSTITUTE

Immigrant Family Institute is an innovative program designed to build understanding and trust between Seattle refugee communities and the Seattle Police Department (SPD). The institute helps build a grassroots network of refugee/immigrant leaders while increasing the cultural competency of the participating SPD officers.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

The goal of our Language Access Program is to ensure City of Seattle departments serve all City residents regardless of the language they speak. This includes providing interpretation services, translating important documents/outreach materials, and simplifying access. OIRA also provides language access technical assistance to other City departments.

ETHNIC MEDIA PROGRAM

We believe successful outreach to immigrant and refugee communities must involve ethnic media. OIRA assists City departments in developing comprehensive outreach campaigns, which include media that serves immigrant and refugee communities. OIRA also ensures ethnic media outlets have equitable access to information on current City developments.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

OIRA staff has deep relationships in immigrant and refugee communities that enable them to provide technical assistance and cultural expertise across City departments.